

Love & Lies

1

MUSAWO

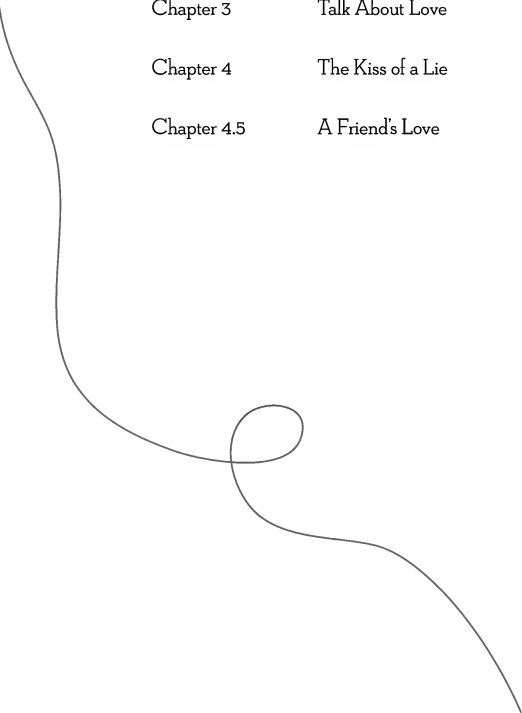
①

Love & Lies

LOVE and LIES by MUSAWO

C O N T E N T S

Chapter 1	First Love	3
Chapter 2	A Little Lie	63
Chapter 3	Talk About Love	103
Chapter 4	The Kiss of a Lie	143
Chapter 4.5	A Friend's Love	177





...MY
EYES ARE
ALWAYS ON
HER.

WHEN
WE'RE IN
CLASS...

Chapter 1: First Love



AND
SOME-
TIMES I
WONDER
...

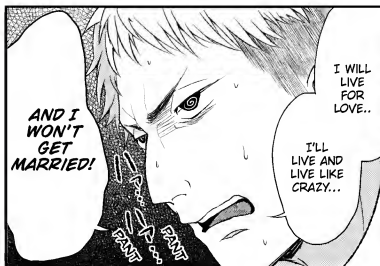
...

YUKARI NEJIMA (15)
HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST YEAR
NICKNAME: "NEJI"



I
DON'T
WANT
HER TO
NOTICE
MY
GAZE...

...SO
I
ONLY
STARE
A
LITTLE.







WE'LL
SWEAR
TOO!

YOU
GUYS
...!



WE'RE
DETER-
MINED...

WE
SWEAR
HERE
AND
NOW...



I THINK
IT'S WEIRD
THAT
EVERYONE
TAKES A
SYSTEM LIKE
MARRIAGE FOR
GRANTED...
MARRIAGE IS
WHERE MEN
GO TO DIE!

YEAH...

I
THINK
SO
TOO.



YEAH!!

WE
WILL...

NOT
GET
MARRIED
!







TODAY,
I SPOKE
WITH THE
CHILDREN
OF THOSE
MARRIAGES,
THOSE
KNOWN
AS THE
"YUKARI
GENER-
ATION"

...IN
ORDER TO
DECIDE
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
MARRIAGE
PARTNER
FOR EACH
INDIVIDUAL.

...AND
ENABLES
THE
GOVERNMENT
TO COLLECT
AND
ANALYZE
THE
GENETIC
INFORMA-
TION
OF
CITIZENS
...



AS
YOU ALL
KNOW, THE
ACTION PLAN TO
ADDRESS OUR
NATION'S
LOW BIRTH
RATE...

...IS
CALLED
THE
"YUKARI
LAW"...

*YUKARI MEANS "CONNECTION" OR "RELATION" IN JAPANESE

IT KEEPS
THE
POPULATION
UP AND
CREATES

...SO HEALTHIER
IT'S A CHILDREN...
WE'LL
RECEIVED
POLICY
BOTH IN
AND OUT
OF THE
COUNTRY.

MORE
PRECISELY,
WHEN A
BOY AND A
GIRL THE
GOVERNMENT
HAS DECIDED
WILL MARRY
... TURN 16...

...
THEY
ARE
BOTH
NOTIFIED
OF
THEIR
FUTURE
PARTNER.

I'M
HOME!

OH!
WELCOME
BACK!

DURING
GYM
CLASS
AT THIS
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL

CHILDREN
WHOSE
STRENGTHS
AND WEAK-
NESSES ARE
COMPLI-
MENTARY...

ARE
...
SAID TO
BE PHYSI-
CALLY AND
MENTALLY
GIFTED,
BUT...

IT'S SO
WONDER-
FUL!

HAPPY-
NESS
GUARAN-
TEED!

YOUR
FUTURE,
STABI-
LIZED!

IN OTHER
WORDS...

WE ARE PROMISED HAPPINESS
THROUGH GENETICS!

FLING

IT'S LIKE AN ARRANGED
MARRIAGE, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT
IS THE MATCHMAKER.



I WANT TO BE
IN LOVE.

I WANT TO SAY
"I LIKE YOU!"

NOT TO
JUST
ANYONE...

...BUT TO
TAKASAKI-
SAN!



ME?

COUNT ME
THE HECK
OUT.



I WANT TO TELL HER, NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE SAYS...

...THAT I'VE LIKED HER...

...FOR FIVE YEARS.

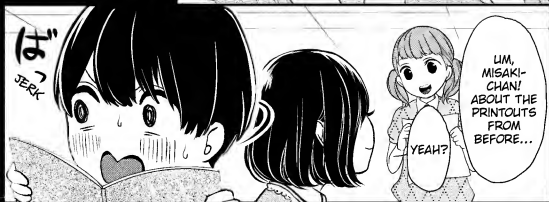
OKAY!
GET YOUR
NOTE-
BOOKS
OUT!



I DON'T
CARE IF
THEY SAY...

...IT'S
JUST "A
PASSING
FANCY"
BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE
COMES...

YOU LIKE
WHO YOU
LIKE!







THAT'S ALL
IT TOOK.

WITH JUST
THAT, SHE
GRABBED
AHOLD OF
EVERY PART
OF ME.



OH.
YEAH.
YUKARI!

IT'S
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
IN...

...TWO
DAYS.



BUT
I...

...BY
THE
WAY...

...THAT'S
THE ONLY
TIME I'VE
EVER
SPOKEN
WITH HER.



I JUST
CAN'T
FORGET
ABOUT
IT.

YUKARI!
DINNER!



OH...
SO I'LL
GET THE
NOTICE,
TOO, WHEN
I TURN 16.

IF YOUR
PARTNER IS
ALREADY 16,
IT'LL COME
RIGHT
AWAY,
RIGHT?

I'M SO EXCITED!

...



I WOULDN'T BE
SHOCKED IF MY
NOTICE CAME
TOMORROW.

TAKASAKI-
SAN WAS
BORN IN
APRIL, I
THINK...



UH...

I
WONDER
IF YOU'LL
GET YOUR
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE!

OH,
YEAH.
IT IS!

OH!



TA-
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN!

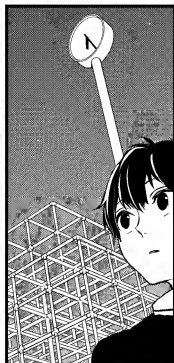
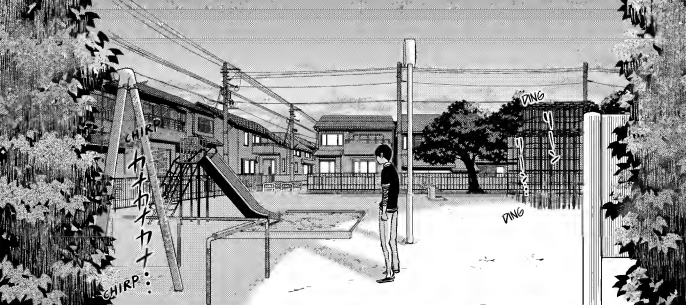


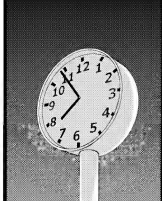
I DON'T HAVE
ANY MORE...

...TIME.









AH!

MY
HANDS
SMELL
LIKE
GRASS
...



MAYBE SHE
GOT LOST?
HMM... BUT
IT'S JUST
BEHIND THE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL...

MAYBE IT WAS
A LITTLE
UNREASONABLE
TO ASK HER TO
COME AT SIX
ON A SCHOOL
DAY...



PHEW
...

PHEW

HEY,
YOU
KIDS!



I SHOULD
HAVE
SHOWED
OFF SOME
SKILLS
OR DONE
SOME-
THING
COOL!

THERE'S
A SAND-
BOX
RIGHT
HERE!

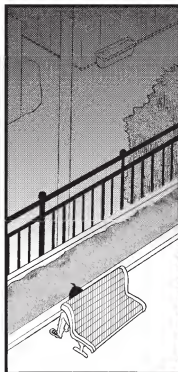
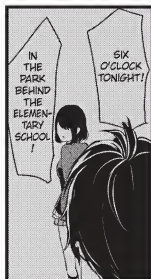
AH! I
SHOULD
DO THAT
NOW!
I WILL
DO THAT
NOW!

AGH!
THIS IS A
DISASTER!
TAKASAKI-
SAN
MIGHT BE
WATCHING!

THINK ABOUT
IT! YOU'RE
JUST A GUY
FROM HER CLASS
PULLING UP
GRASS WITH A
SKEEVEY LOOK
ON YOUR FACE!
THAT'S WAY TOO
CREEPY!

あああああ!!
AAAAAAGH!









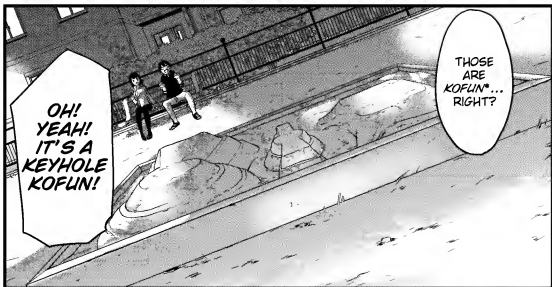




I CAN'T
TALK
OVER THIS
POUNDING
HEART-
BEAT!

THE
WORDS
WON'T
COME
OUT
RIGHT!





*GIGANTIC ANCIENT JAPANESE TOMBS DATING FROM THE 3RD TO 7TH CENTURIES A.D.





EVEN
THOUGH
NOBODY
WAS
LISTENING.

YOU
WERE
REALLY
PASSIONATE
ABOUT
EXPLAINING
THE KOFUN.

YOUR
STUDY
PRESENTATION.

HUH?





TEE-HEE!

YEP.

HUH?!
THAT
WAS A
LIE?!

NO
WAY!



BUT
WHY DID
SHE LIE?



UM...



SORRY!

O-OH!
THAT'S
A RELIEF!



TAKASAKI-SAN... SHE HAS
SUCH LONG EYELASHES...

AND SUCH PRETTY EYES...
THEY'RE SO CLEAR, THEY LOOK
ALMOST BLUE...

YOU'D ONLY
EVER SEE
ONE GIRL,
AT BEST, THIS
BEAUTIFUL
AT ANY GIVEN
SCHOOL.

AND HER HAIR IS SO SOFT...





I'M
HERE
RIGHT
NOW...

BECAUSE
OF
YOU...

ANY-
WAY!



HUH?



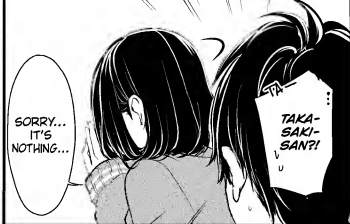




IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
NOT
NOTHING!

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
THAT?!

FLUSTERED



SORRY...
IT'S
NOTHING...

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN?!



O-OH,
YEAH!
TAKEDA
FROM OUR
CLASS...

LISTEN
TO
THIS!

I
HATE
THIS!

A LITTLE
WHILE AGO,
HE
CHALLENGED
ME TO MAKE
SNOT BUBBLES
WITH OUR
NOSES...

NEJIMA-
KUN.

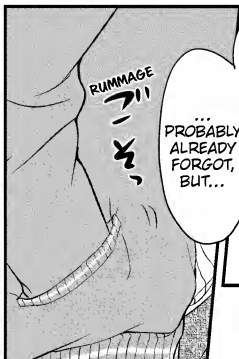


I DON'T
CARE IF
SHE
TURNS
ME
DOWN!

I JUST
DON'T
WANT
HER TO
CRY!

I'M SORRY!
I JUST
BLURTED
IT OUT, I
WASN'T
THINKING
OF YOUR
FEELINGS...

I KNOW
THIS IS
KIND OF
SUDDEN!

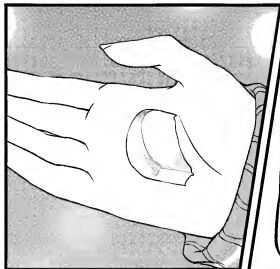


RUMMAGE

...
PROBABLY
ALREADY
FORGOT,
BUT...



YOU...



I'VE
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS
LIKED
YOU.









...WHAT I
STARTED
TO LIKE
ABOUT
YOU.

I
THINK
THAT'S...



NO!
NOT
AT
ALL!

BUT
YOU
STILL...

...SMILE
AT
ME...

THAT
I'M NOT
COOL AT
ALL...



THAT
I'M
SIMPLE?

N-
NO!

...
...REALLY
NICE, I
GUESS?



HUH?
REALLY
?!

YEAH!
YOU'RE...

YOU'RE
COOL,
NEJIMA-
KUN!







AT
LEAST,
IT WAS
TO ME.

IS
THAT
BAD?



IT WAS
REALLY
SPECIAL...

AND
REALLY
WONDERFUL.



IT FEELS
SO
STRANGE...

...TALKING
TO YOU
LIKE
THIS!
I'M SO
SHY!

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
SOMEONE
I WATCHED
FROM A
DISTANCE.



WHAT DO
I DO
NOW...?

O-OF
COURSE
NOT.



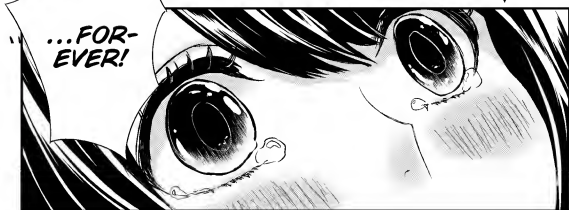
I FEEL
LIKE I'M
GONNA
CRY...

HEE
HEE!





I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU...



...FOR-
EVER!



I'M SO GLAD I FELL
FOR THIS GIRL...

I FELT LIKE EVERY
CELL IN MY BODY WAS
SCREAMING THAT.



REALLY
LIKE A
DREAM
TO ME!



TODAY
IS
LIKE...



NO,
I'M
NOT!

YOU'RE
BEING SO
NEJIMA-
KUN!



LET'S
KISS.



HEY...

PAT
とん
!





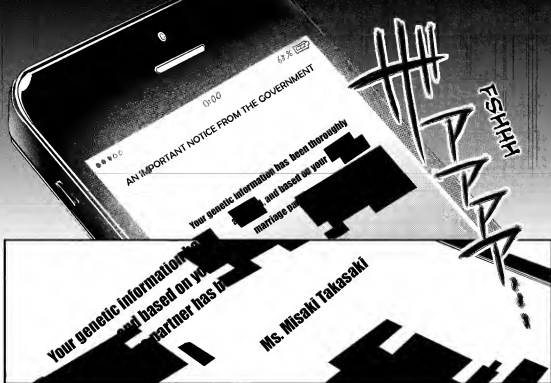


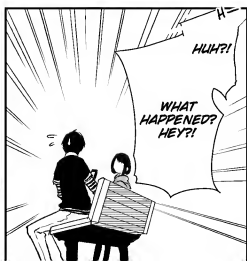


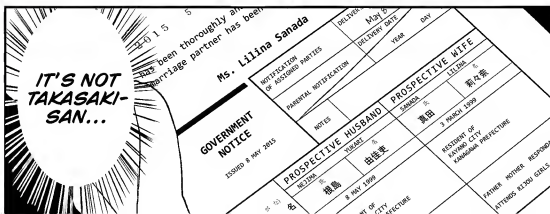


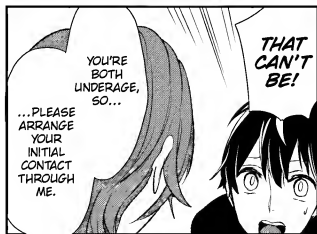




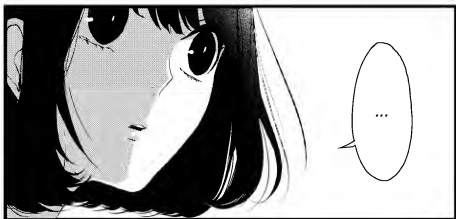


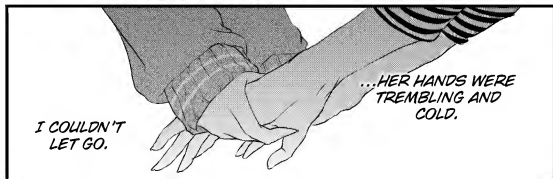








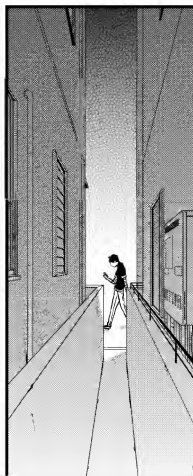




AND
NEITHER...

...COULD
SHE.







...AND
SHE LOVES
ME BACK...



I LOVE
TAKASAKI-
SAN...



HM... I'M NOT
REALLY FEELING
LIKE THAT'S
RIGHT YET...

DO I WANT TO
MARRY HER?



SO...



BUT THAT FEELING...



I'M SURE IT WILL KEEP BURNING
WITHIN ME. IT WON'T GO AWAY.

...WHAT DO
I WANT TO
DO ABOUT
THAT?



I LOVE
HER SO
MUCH!

I REALLY
DO LOVE
TAKASAKI-
SAN!



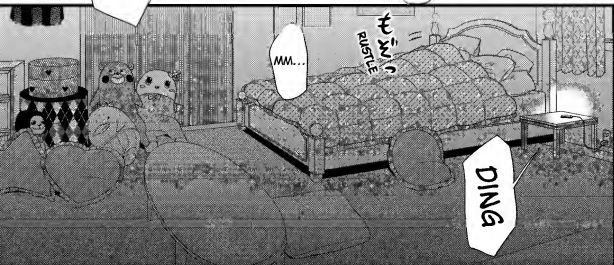
I'LL TRY TALKING TO
HER AGAIN.

TO WORK OUT
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO
NEXT.



I KNOW
WE CAN'T
CHOOSE
WHO WE
MARRY...
BUT IN
THIS
SCREWED-
UP
WORLD...

HER LIPS
WERE EVEN
SOFTER
THAN I
IMAGINED...

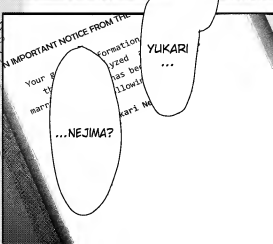




WHAT
AN ODD
NAME.



READING



...NEJIMA?

YUIKARI
...

...OUR
MARRIAGE
TO A
PERSON
WE HAVE
NO
CONNECTION
WITH
AT ALL...

...IS
DECIDED.

THE
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE.

ONCE
THE
GOVERNMENT
DELIVERS
ITS DECISION
TO US...



OH!
GLAD
TO
HAVE
YOU
BACK!

IT'S
OFTEN
USED
AS A
FIRST
MEETING
PLACE FOR
YUKARI
COUPLES.

OUR
FAMILY
HAS RUN A
TRADITIONAL
RESTAURANT
AND INN
SINCE THE
EDO PERIOD.

HEE
HEE!
I MET
MY
HUSBAND
HERE,
TOO.

AND
I...



SO
THIS
IS HOW
IT ALL
ENDS
UP...

...AM NOW
GOING
TO MEET
MY
FUTURE...

...WIFE.

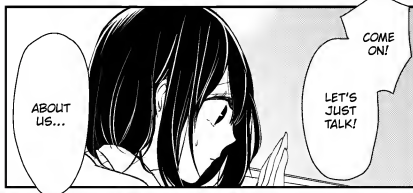














...YOU'RE
ONLY
MAKING
TROUBLE
FOR
ME.

SO
WHEN YOU
ACT LIKE
THIS...



...TO
SEE
YOUR
PARTNER.

IF YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M
SAYING,
THEN
GO...

HUH?
UM
...

¿?
TURN



BYE.

...



I
SAID...

"LET'S
KEEP
THIS IN
OUR
MEMO-
RIES."

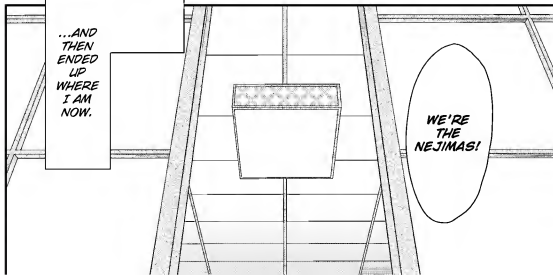
I
MEANT
OUR
PAST.



I DON'T
REALLY
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER
THAT.



JUST
THAT
I STOOD
THERE,
IN
SHOCK...



...AND
THEN
ENDED
UP
WHERE
I AM
NOW.

WE'RE
THE
NEJIMAS!











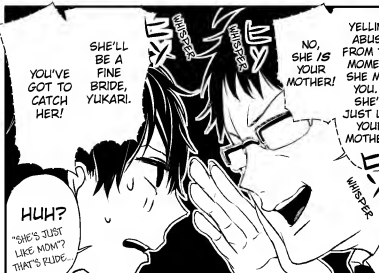
*NOTE: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE MANDATORY IN MOST JAPANESE SCHOOLS.



*NOTE: A TEA STEM FLOATING ERECT IN ONE'S CUP IS A GOOD OMEN.

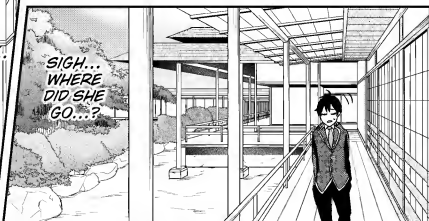








THEY'RE
REALLY
HITTING
IT OFF,
ODDLY
ENOUGH!...



SIGH...
WHERE
DID SHE
GO...?



AND THEN
THEY
BREAK
OFF THE
ENGAGEMENT...

WHAT IF
SHE
NEVER
COMES
BACK...



LILINA...
SAN?

HEY!
UM...



SIGH...

ハ
チ
ク
ACK!!



MAYBE THAT
GIRL'S RIGHT...

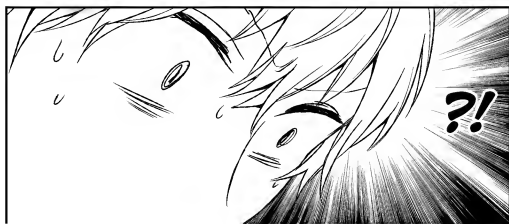
I'M RUDE AND
THOUGHTLESS...



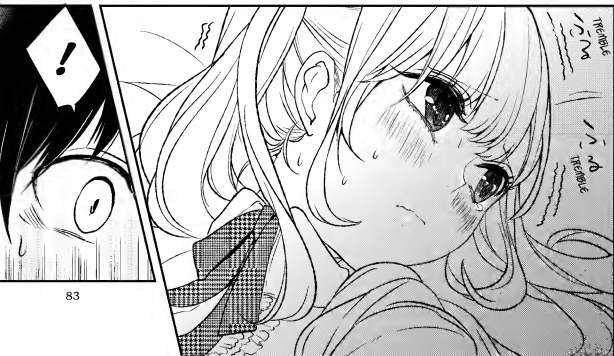
I'M
PATHETIC.

TAKASAKI-SAN
HATES ME,
BUT I'M
STILL
THINKING
ABOUT HER...











I CAN'T
GET
MARRIED,
NOW!

HOW
ARE YOU
GOING
TO TAKE
RESPON-
SIBILITY
FOR THIS?!

THIS
SUCKS
...

IT
SURE
DOES
...

S-
SORRY...
ARE YOU
OKAY?

JERK



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU!

I—I
I'M
SORRY...

HOW
CAN YOU
TAKE
THIS
SO
LIGHTLY
?!

AND
YOU'RE
A JERK,
TOO!



ヒ
ッ
ッ
ッ
TEE-
HEE

UM...BY
MARRYING
YOU...
RESPON-
BLY?



フ
ッ
ッ
ッ
FLINCH

DON'T
BE
STUPID!



NO, YOU
CAN'T EVEN
LOOK PEOPLE
IN THE EYE,
MUCH LESS
SCARE OFF
CROWS!
YOU'VE GOT
LESS SPINE
THAN A
SCARE-
CROW'S
EYEBALL!
YOU COULDN'T
EVEN
BEAT
A
BALLOON!

EVEN
SCARECROWS
OUT IN
THE
FIELDS
HAVE
GOT
MORE
SPINE
THAN
YOU!
YOU'RE
LOWER
THAN
A
SCARE-
CROW!

STAB

STAB

STAB

STAB





...YOU
WERE
SO
CRUEL
TO ME!

AND
EVEN
THOUGH
I WENT
THROUGH
ALL
THAT...



SHE'S JUST
LIKE ME.



OH...



MY PARTNER,
LILINA SANADA...

THIS
GIRL...



IT'S
UNREASON-
ABLE TO
JUST
FORCE
PEOPLE TO
PREPARE
THEM-
SELVES
FOR IT.

I MEAN,
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE POINT
OR THE
SIGNIFICANCE
OF
MARRIAGE.

...I
WAS
SCARED,
TOO, I
THINK.

BEFORE I
FELL IN
LOVE...
BEFORE I
FELT LIKE
I WANTED
TO
EXPERIENCE
ROMANCE
...



LILINA...

...DIDN'T RUN AWAY.
SHE CAME, DESPITE
HER FEARS...

...TO MEET ME,
FACE TO FACE.



WHAT DO
I DO...?

HOW SHOULD I
APOLOGIZE?



BUT I...

I WAS SO
RUDE TO HER...

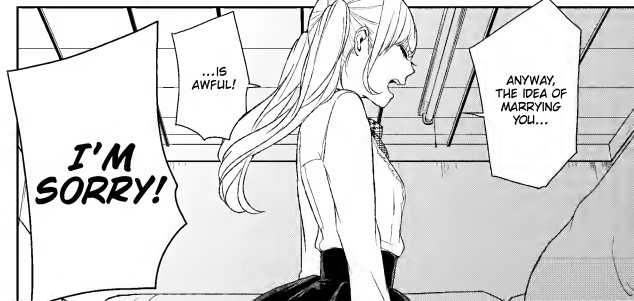


MAYBE
I...

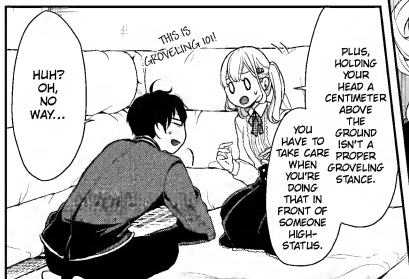
...DISAPPOINTED
TAKASAKI-SAN
FOR THE SAME
REASONS.



AND THAT'S WHERE I STOPPED THINKING.









I WAS SO SCARED, I DIDN'T LOOK AT LILINA'S FACE, EVEN ONCE.

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED SINCE WE WERE IN FIFTH GRADE.

IN THE END, I TALKED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH TAKASAKI-SAN...

SHE'S RIGHT...

I'M WORSE THAN A SCARECROW.

...OKAY...

WHAT WILL SHE SAY?!

THE END. SHE TOLD ME I'M JUST TROUBLE AND SHE WENT BACK TO HER CLASS-ROOM.

...BAS-ICALLY...

YUKARI...

SPARKLE





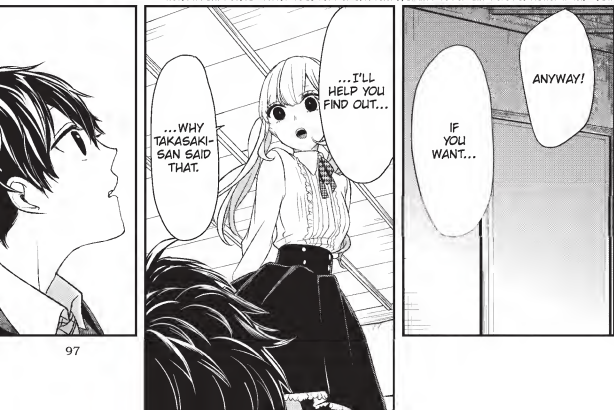




*NOTE: IN EAST ASIAN CULTURES, LOVERS ARE SOMETIMES SAID TO BE CONNECTED BY A RED THREAD WHICH DESTINES THEM TO MEET.



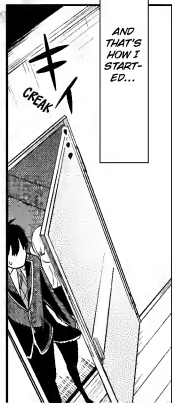
*NOTE: TRASHY NOVELS WRITTEN TO BE READ ON CELL PHONE, SIMILAR TO FORMULA ROMANCE FICTION IN THE WEST.













...TO
HAVE
SOMEONE
WITH
ME...

...INSTEAD
OF BEING
ALONE
IN THIS.

FOR A
MOMENT, IT
SEEMED TO
ME THAT
IT WAS
KIND OF
NICE...



OH!



LOOKS
LIKE
IT!

LOVERS'
QUARREL
ALREADY
?

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
SAY SO
SOONER,
IDIOT!!

ERK!

SMACK



HUH?

HUH?!

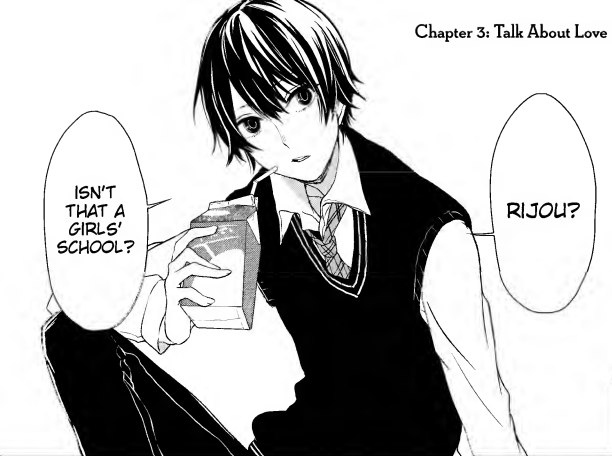
BLUSH

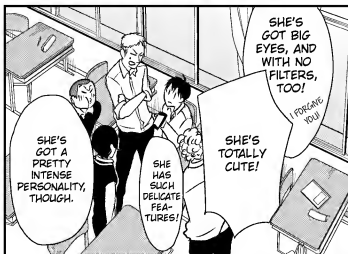
カアア



SORRY...
UM...

THE
BUTTON
ON YOUR
SHIRT IS
OPEN...
IT HAS BEEN
FOR A WHILE.









IF TAKASAKI-SAN WAS LIKE THAT TO ME, I'D BE IN TEARS!

I ACTUALLY DID ALMOST CRY.

I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT SERIOUS GUTS, NISAKA!

OH, NO... GOTTA MAKE SOMETHING UP!

...

HUH?!

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN YOU SAID THAT!

MAN, YOU SCARED ME!

LAST YEAR, REMEMBER?

WHEN WE FIRST MET AT OUR PREP SCHOOL, SEISHIN.

...

HUH? WHY? DID I DO SOMETHING?

NAH, I STILL CAN'T BEAT YOU, NEJI.

HUH? YOU FORGOT? WOW.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'VE GOT NO MEMORY OF THAT.

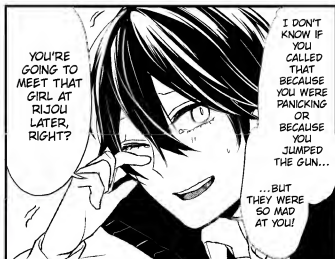
IT'S YOU, RIGHT? YOU'RE NISAKA FROM HIGA MIDDLE SCHOOL! YOU'VE BEEN LEERING AT ANOTHER GUY'S GIRL!







*110 IS THE EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR THE POLICE IN JAPAN.





NOW I'M HERE, BUT SHE
HASN'T REPLIED, AND
I DIDN'T GET THE ALERT
SAYING SHE READ MY
MESSAGE. I WONDER
WHAT'S GOING ON...

THIS IS
AWKWARD...

WELL, IT IS A
GIRLS' SCHOOL,
AFTER ALL.

AND IT'S
REALLY
AWKWARD!

RISON GIRLS'
SCHOOL... I GOT
INEASILY BY
SHOWING THEM
THE GOVERNMENT
NOTICE ON MY
PHONE, BUT...

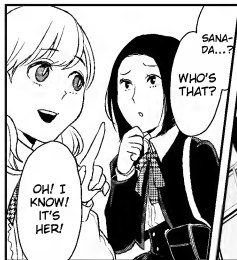
...IT REALLY IS
JUST GIRLS
IN HERE...

I'LL TRY ASKING!

UM...

A SCARF THE
SAME COLOR
AS LILINA'S...







I DON'T
KNOW
HER ALL
THAT
WELL,
EITHER,
BUT...

SHE'S
REALLY
NOT
LIKE
THAT...

UM...



...



...I'M
SURE
YOU GUYS
ARE JUST
MISUNDER-
STANDING.



UGH...
I'M PATHETIC.

I BET NISAKA
WOULD HAVE SAID
SOMETHING REALLY
SNAPPY...

MAN... I WANT
TO BE NISAKA...

EEK!
OKAY!

...I DON'T
LIKE THE
WAY
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
HER!

HIS IMPRESSION
OF NISAKA

I DON'T
KNOW
HER
WELL
EITHER,
BUT...



WHAT HAPPENED?



BUT ANYWAY...



LILINA....!







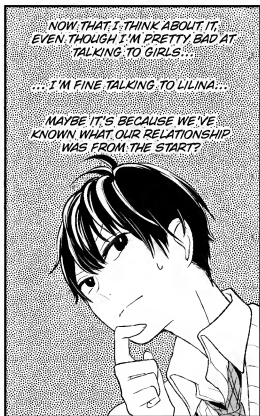
IT'S A
LITTLE
EXCITING,
THINKING
ABOUT
HER...
...CHANGING
RIGHT
OVER
THERE.

ハッ
スライド

...



ALTHOUGH THAT'S WHAT MADE HER SO
MAD AT ME TO BEGIN WITH...



NOW, THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
EVEN THOUGH I'M PRETTY BAD AT
TALKING TO GIRLS...

... I'M FINE TALKING TO LILINA...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE
KNOWN WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP
WAS FROM THE START?



"SNOOTY SANADA"...

...NO WAY.



FSHH



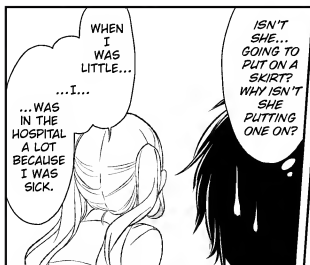
TWITCH

DO
PEOPLE
REALLY
CALL YOU
"SNOOTY
SANADA"?



HEY,
LILINA-
SAN...





WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE...

...I...

...WAS
IN THE
HOSPITAL
A LOT
BECAUSE
I WAS
SICK.

ISN'T
SHE...
GOING TO
PUT ON A
SKIRT?
WHY ISN'T
SHE
PUTTING
ONE ON?

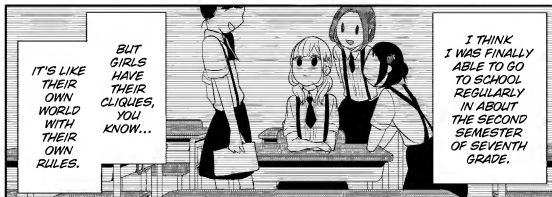


...



BUT IT
WAS A
PRETTY
DIFFICULT
ILLNESS...

I'M FINE
NOW,
THOUGH.



IT'S LIKE
THEIR
OWN
WORLD
WITH
THEIR
OWN
RULES.

BUT
GIRLS
HAVE
THEIR
CLIQUE'S,
YOU
KNOW...

I THINK
I WAS FINALLY
ABLE TO GO
TO SCHOOL
REGULARLY
IN ABOUT
THE SECOND
SEMESTER
OF SEVENTH
GRADE.



IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK,
THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
SAY IT TO
HER
FACE?

...

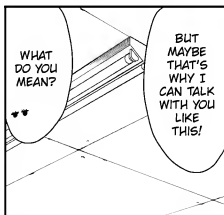


AND
SHE'S
SO CHUNKY,
IT DIDN'T
EVEN
LOOK GOOD
ON HER,
ANYWAY.

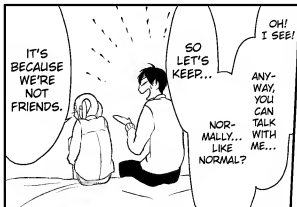
I KNOW!
IT WAS
LIKE SO
CHEAP,
LIKE A
TOY FROM
A HAPPY
MEAL!

REINA'S
PIN TODAY
WAS SOOO
LAME,
WASN'T
IT?



















NICE
TO MEET
YOU,
TAKASAKI-
SAN.



I'M
YUKARI
NEJIMA'S
...

I'M
LILINA
SANADA.

...ASSIGNED
GOVERNMENT
PARTNER.







GOOD
JOB,
LILINA!

THAT'S
WHAT I
WANNA
KNOW,
TOO!



WHAT
DO I
THINK...

...OF
NEJIMA-
KUN?

...

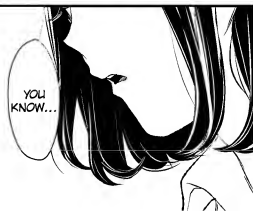


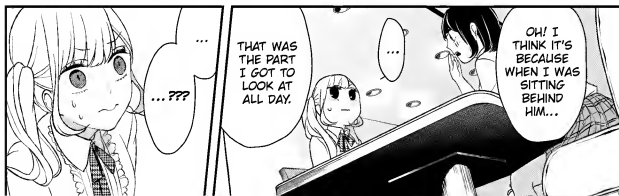
...



ORDER
NUMBER
2!

SILENCE







OKAY,
OKAY,
SLOW
DOWN!

AND IN
GYM
CLASS
HE'S GOT
A WEIRD
SORT OF
HOP-HOP
RUN...

WHEN HE'S
EATING HIS
LUNCH, HE
KEEPS HIS
CHOPSTICKS
IN HIS MOUTH
WHEN
SOMEONE
TALKS TO HIM,
AND I THINK
THAT'S QUIRKY
AND CUTE...

HE'S
GOT NO
CONFIDENCE,
BUT HE
RAISES
HIS HAND
WHEN HE'S
EXCITED.

SO HE
TWITCHES
WHEN THE
TEACHER
CALLS ON
HIM...
THAT'S CUTE,
TOO...

I LIKE
HOW HIS
SHOULDERS
ARE A
LITTLE
SLOPED AND
HOW HE
SLOUCHES

...
I CAN
TELL IT'S
HIM EVEN
FROM A
WAYS
AWAY...

AREN'T WE
TALKING
ABOUT
WHAT I
LIKE ABOUT
NEJIMA-
KUN?

HUH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

UM...

IS MY
HAIR
WHORL
REALLY
THAT
GREAT?!

AND
YOU
LIKE
HIS
HAIR
WHORL
?!



...THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
EVER
TALKED
ABOUT
HIM LIKE
THIS...

I'VE
ALWAYS
KEPT IT
HIDDEN,
SO...

IT'S
REALLY
FUN!



I...
DON'T
...!

HUIH?
WHAT?



WHAT
DO YOU
LIKE
ABOUT
NEJIMA-
KUN?

HEY!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
LILINA-
CHAN?



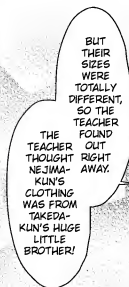
...



EVEN
WHEN
HE'S
NERVOUS?

THAT
HE'S
NICE...

TH—



SO THEN, WHEN TAKEDA-KUN FORGOT HIS GYM CLOTHES, NEJIMA-KUN LENT HIM HIS JERSEY...





FALLING
IN LOVE
WITH
SOME-
ONE...

...MUST BE
WONDERFUL.

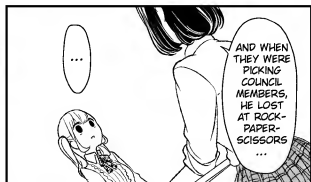


...THINKING
OF ME,
TOO!



AND I
GUESS...
SHE'S
BEEN...

AND AT
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
...



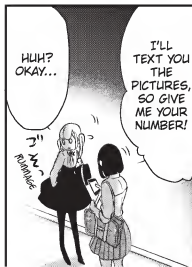
AND WHEN
THEY WERE
PICKING
COUNCIL
MEMBERS,
HE LOST
AT ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS
...

...





* KNOWN AS PURIKURA, THESE PHOTOBOOTHS ARE LIBIQUITOUS IN JAPAN. THEY USE MANY DIGITAL EFFECTS TO CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE.









AND YOU
DON'T
GET THIS
FULL
FEELING
IN YOUR
CHEST
AFTER
YOU KISS
HER,
RIGHT?!

NO, I
DON'T.

I MEAN,
DO YOU
FEEL
LIKE YOU
WANT TO
KISS
HER AND
STUFF?

DO
I?

YOU'VE
GOT
THE
WRONG
IDEA!

NO,
NO,
NO,
NO!

RIGHT
?!



SNUFFLE
= ㄣ ㄣ

MY
HEART'S
POUNDING
LIKE
CRAZY.

DOES
THIS
MEAN
THAT I'M
IN LOVE
WITH
TAKASAKI-
SAN?

HUH?!



UH...

HAVE
YOU
KISSED
TAKASAKI-
SAN?



HMM?



HUH?



I
HAVE
AN
IDEA.

HUH?



BUT IT
WAS
BEFORE
I GOT MY
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE!

IT WAS
BEFORE
THAT!

PANIC
ア
ㄣ



UHHHH...
UM,
W-WELL,
LIKE...

...FIVE
YEARS'
WORTH OF
OUR PENT-UP
FEELINGS
EXPLODED...

IT WAS
ACTUALLY
MORE
OF AN
ACCIDENT...



...HAVE
TO KISS
TAKASAKI-
SAN AGAIN.

YUKARI,
YOU...



WHA?



BUT
STILL,
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN...

...AND
WE
EVEN
KISSED.

WE
CON-
FESSED
OUR
LOVE
TO ONE
ANOTHER
...



IT'S BEEN
A WEEK
SINCE I
GOT MY
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE.

Chapter 4: The Kiss of a Lie



...WAS
NOT A
PART
OF MY
LIFE.



NOT
UNTIL
TODAY...

人生
DING DONG



HUH?

SORRY
TO MAKE
YOU
WAIT,
MISAKI!

OH!

HUH?!



...

BUT...
WHAT DO
I DO?
HOW
SHOULD
I ACT?

OH!
DID
LILINA
INVITE
HER?

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN?!

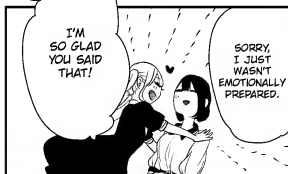
WHY
IS SHE
HERE?!

SORRY,
LILI-
CHAN...

I
HAVE
TO
G...











SHE SAID THAT
BEFORE, RIGHT
WHEN WE SAID
GOODBYE THE
OTHER DAY...

SHE WAS
SERIOUS?!







LET'S
DO IT.

LET'S
KISS.











THAT
LOOK
ON
HER
FACE...!

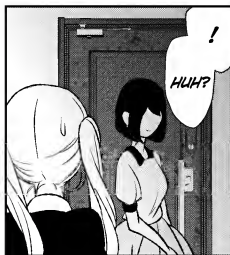


Y-
YEAH...



OH...

HUH?













**YOU
HAVE
TO!**

**ONCE
A
DAY!**

**KISS
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN!**



**IT'S BEEN
A WEEK
SINCE WE
GOT OUR
GOVERNMENT
NOTICES.**

HUH?



**...OR IS
IT JUST
BEGINNING?**

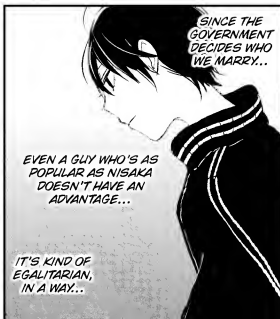
**IS MY
LOVE
LIFE
OVER...**

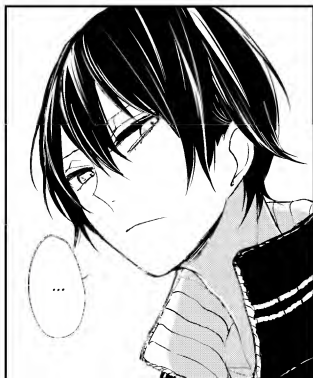


HAVING
GYM IN
FIFTH
PERIOD
IS PRETTY
ROUGH
...

SO
HOT!

UGH!
I HATE
EXERCISING
AFTER
LUNCH!





HLH...?

HLH...?!

ooo

THERE'S...

...SOMETHING
WEIRD !!!
BETWEEN
THEM...

**AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE VERY SIMILAR
HOTTEST BOY AND GIRL IN CLASS**

WELL, I
THINK
IT'S MY
IMAGINATION,
BUT...

NOW THAT I
THINK OF IT...

I REMEMBER NISAKA
SUDDENLY TALKING TO
TAKASAKI-SAN ONE TIME...

I WONDER IF
SOMETHING'S
GOING ON
BETWEEN
THOSE TWO.

YEAH.

YEAH,
IT WAS
LEFT OPEN
TODAY.

THEY'RE
SUCH A
GOOD
MATCH IT
GIVES ME A
STOMACH-
ACHE.

DON'T THINK
ABOUT
IT...

I'LL GO
RETURN
IT NOW,
SO YOU
GO ON
WITHOUT
ME.

TENGE
キッ...

OH...
SORRY.

I STILL
HAVE THE
KEY FOR
THE GYM
STORAGE.

EVERYONE IN OUR
CLASS KNOWS HE'S
THE BEST...

BUT FOR SOME REASON
HE HANGS OUT WITH A
PLAIN GUY LIKE ME.

NISAKA, HUH?

I THINK WE'RE
FRIENDS, BUT...

I NEVER KNOW WHAT
HE'S THINKING.

IS THAT BECAUSE HE'S
GOOD LOOKING?

YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
BACK TO
THE
CLASS-
ROOM,
NEJI?

HMM... BUT IT WAS SO
LONG AGO, IT MIGHT
SEEM WEIRD.

SHOULD I JUST...
ASK HIM STRAIGHT UP?

WELL, BUT...
WHAT?

HMM?
I'M
GOING,
THEN.

OH! I
THOUGHT
I'D WAIT
FOR
NISAKA.

OKAY.

LIKE, "WHY WERE YOU
TALKING TO TAKASAKI-
SAN THAT ONE TIME?"

NEJIMA-
KUN.

AH!
OH, NO!
GOT-
TA GO!

DING
コ!
DONG
BONG

HE'S TAKING
FOREVER...



TAKA-SAKI-SAN...



FIRE HYDRANT



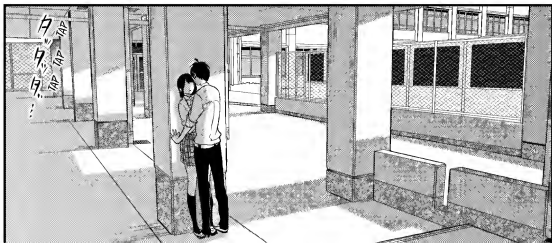
...TALK FOR A BIT?



HEY, CAN WE...

FIRE HYDRANT













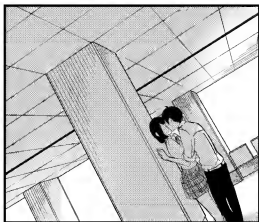
YEAH...
MAKING
UP A LIE
TO TRY
TO FIX
THINGS...

...IS
REALLY
HARD.



...I
CAN
DO IT.

I STILL
DON'T
FEEL
LIKE...





Chapter 4.5:
A Friend's Love



I already reminded you, but, but remember you have your interview today, so go pick up Lilina-chan at the station on your way home and bring her home with you, okay?

BING



Make sure you bring her

LILINA-HUH...?

THINGS ARE STILL SO AWKWARD...

AFTER MAKING EVERYTHING ALL WEIRD, SHE JUST LEFT...



LET'S GO HOME!

I'M BEAT ...

OKAY, HOME-ROOM'S OVER. YOU CAN GO!

WHAT, SERIOUSLY?



GAB

GAB

CHATTER

CHATTER

GUESS I'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME UNTIL HER TRAIN ARRIVES...











YOU
MAKE
ME COME
ALL THE
WAY BACK
HERE, AND
YOU'RE
ASLEEP?

AND
TO
TOP IT
OFF...



ARE YOU
SLEEPING
...?

SNOORE



PPFFFT

SERIOUSLY,
WHY
WOULD
HE...

I CAN'T WITH
THIS GUY.



HUH.



WHY
THE HELL
ARE YOU
SITTING
SEIZA?*

SNOORE

BAM

*NOTE: SEIZA REFERS TO A KNEEL-
ING POSITION OF SITTING TYPICALLY
USED IN POLITE COMPANY, ON
TRADITIONAL TATAMI MAT FLOORS.









SO WHAT'D YOU WANT?

LONG SINCE. IF YOU DIDN'T WAKE UP IN THE NEXT TWO MINUTES I WAS GONNA HEAD HOME.

CRAP, SORRY!

HUH...? NISAKA?
ARE YOU DONE WITH STUDENT COUNCIL?



NISAKA, DO YOU...

...LIKE ANY OF...

...THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS?
LIKE TAKASAKI-SAN, OR WHOEVER
...

...



THAT'S, RIGHT, I WAS GONNA TELL HIM!

AH...

WELL ...



YOU'D LOOK GOOD TOGETHER, MAYBE ...?



HUH?!

I MEAN, UH...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?





LUST.



LOVE.



*AND
LIES.*

Love & Lies



The full scope of the **Yukari Law** becomes clear...but does it really lead to the **ultimate love**, or is it a **trap** laid by science?

Love & Lies

Volume 2 coming soon!

WE'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 2!

★ SPECIAL THANKS ★

SUDOU JUU-SAMA
NOMOMURA-SAMA
HANAWA-SAMA

EVERYONE IN
MY FAMILY

☆ AND ☆
ALL OF YOU
WHO'VE SO
KINDLY READ
MY WORK

MUSAWO

Love and Lies 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Love and Lies Volume 1 copyright © 2015 Musawo

English translation copyright © 2017 Musawo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682337929

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator: Jennifer Ward

Lettering: Daniel CY

Editing: Paul Starr

Kodansha Comics edition cover design by Phil Balsman

